

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-31 and adds new claims 32-43.

Therefore, the present application has pending claims 32-43.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,798) in view of HomeGain (article entitled "Information HomeGain.com) and further in view of Solomon (U.S. Patent No. 5,035,288). As indicated above, claims 1-18 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1-31 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1-31 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record. The cancellation of claims 1-31 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 32-43. New claims 32-43 are directed to an introduction method, in which a computer connected to various terminals to an information transmitting medium is used to introduce a provider who can provide a service conforming with a request of an applicant. The introduction method includes a providing registration step for receiving a desired term on a providable service from a terminal of a provider and for registering the desired term in association with information on the provider, a providing state registration step for obtaining providing state information on occasions of the provider for providing a service and for registering the providing state information in

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

association with the provider information of the provider, an applicant registration step for receiving an application for use of a service that applicant wishes to enjoy from a terminal of the applicant and for registering the application in association with information on the applicant, and a provider specifying step for selecting desired terms that satisfy at a part of contents of the application out of desired terms registered by the provider registration step and for specifying the provider to be introduced to the Applicants depending on priority decided according to match parts between each of the selected desired terms and the contents of the application.

Further, according to the present invention the provider specifying step or means selects, when there exist a plurality of providers having a highest priority, a provider whose occasions for providing a service, shown by his providing step information, is lowest among the plurality of providers as the provider to be introduced to the applicant.

The above described features of the now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Carter, HomeGain and Solomon whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

As described above, unique according to the present invention is that the present invention provides a system and method which balances the service providing opportunity of the community message and service received opportunity of the community members. Attention is directed to page 65, line 22 through page 66,

line 10 of the present application. Particularly, the present invention employs a step or function in which the provider specifying step or means selects a provider whose occasion for providing a service shown by the provider's state information is lowest among the providers as the provider to be introduced to the Applicant. In other words, the present invention selects the provider to provide this service which has best service providing record. Attention is directed to page 79, line 27 through page 80, line 12 of the present application.

The above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by HomeGain, Solomon or Carter whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

HomeGain teaches an online service to match home buyers and/or real estate agents with each other. HomeGain teaches that sellers, buyers and real estate agents are able to compare each others proposals in an online manner so as to select appropriate buyer, seller or real estate agent. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in HomeGain wherein the track record of the buyer, seller or real estate agent is maintained so that the system automatically select the buyer, seller or real estate agent that has the best track record as in the present invention.

Solomon teaches an interactive computer implemented system and method for negotiating the sale of goods and/or services. As taught by Solomon, customers utilizes a simulated human merchant having predefined behavioral attributes so as input customer data related to particular goods and services desired to be purchased and to negotiate the purchase of the desired goods and services. However, at no

point is there any teaching or suggestion in Solomon that a track record of the particular providers of the goods and services in providing such goods and services is maintained the system to automatically select a provider of a goods and/or service having the best track record as in the present invention. Solomon merely teaches the implanting of human characteristics onto the merchant.

Carter teaches a method and apparatus for performing computer-based-online-commerce using an intelligent agent. As taught by Carter, the intelligent agent receives request from the client computer, reviews content related information and business policies of each server computer of the plurality of server computers and makes decisions as to which server should serve the request based on the content related information and the business policies. The business policies that are reviewed as taught by Carter concerns policies such as cancellation policies and the like. Attention is directed to col. 8, line 62 through col. 9, line 8 of Carter. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Carter that the track record of providing such goods and services is reviewed by the system and the provider having the best track record is selected as in the present invention.

Thus, HomeGain, Solomon and Carter fail to teach or suggest a providing state registration step for obtaining providing state information on occasion of the provider for providing a service and for registering the providing state information in association with the provider information of the provider as recited in the claims.

Further, HomeGain, Solomon and Carter fail to teach or suggest that the provider specifying step (means) selects, when there exist a plurality of providers having a highest priority, a provider whose occasion, for providing a service, shown

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

by his providing state information, is lowest among the plurality of providers as the provider to be introduced to the applicant as recited in the claims.

Since of HomeGain, Solomon and Carter suffer from the deficiencies relative to the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, combining these references in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action still fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, HomeGain, Solomon and Carter whether taken individually or in combination with each other do not anticipate nor render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-18.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 32-43 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 32-43 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (566.40564X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120